

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment claims 1-47 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 13 and 14 are sought to be amended. Claims 15 to 47 are sought to be added to provide the Applicants with alternative claims that provide the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and objections and that they be withdrawn.

Drawings

Proposed drawing corrections are enclosed and highlighted in red. The corrections replace or add several reference numerals; so that, the drawings correspond to the related text. The corrections also correct minor informalities discovered by the Applicants. No new matter has been added.

Also enclosed is a letter to the Official Draftsperson enclosing the revised drawings. The Applicants request that the Examiner approve the corrections so that they may be entered by the Official Draftsperson.

The specification has also been amended to correct or to add a few references to existing elements in the drawings. Again, no new matter has been added.

To assist the Examiner in finding relevant reference numerals in the specification the

Applicants enclose a table of concordance listing many reference numerals in the drawings, the Figure in which each listed numeral appears, and the page of which the listed numeral first appears in the specification.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants previously submitted an Information Disclosure Statement dated May 9, 2001. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the disclosed references, if they have not already been considered, and that a copy of Form PTO-1449 (Page 1 of 1) bearing the Examiner's initials be sent to Applicants.

Claims

In the first office action the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102 based upon Sakelleris and based upon McCarthy and based upon Seiter.

The shape of the frame and the relationship of the frame, the light and the aperture have been clarified in claims 1 and 14. The assembly as claimed, including the claimed shape and relationship between the frame, the light and the aperture, clearly distinguishes the claimed subject matter from the cited references. *In re Japikse* cannot be applied against the amended claims to locate the aperture in such a manner as to make the claimed structure cover the cited references, as the claims sufficiently specify the location of the aperture to distinguish the assembly claimed in the amended claims from the structure shown in the cited references.

The cited reference do not contain a light powered by an electrical circuit connected to the connection; and a rectangular frame through which the electrical component is accessible,

the frame having a side with a depth sufficient to house the light, and an aperture in the side allowing the light to illuminate a space outside the frame assembly through the aperture, as claimed in amended claim 1. The cited reference do not contain a light; an electrical circuit providing electrical energy to the light from a power source; a rectangular frame through which the electrical component is accessible, the frame housing the electrical circuit, the frame having a side with a depth sufficient to house the light, and the frame having an aperture in the side allowing the light to illuminate a space outside the frame assembly through the aperture; and a cover plate for covering the frame and for providing access to the components of the wall conduit, as claimed in amended claim 14.

Claims 2 and 13 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended claim 1. Thus, these claims are also distinguished from the cited references.

An error has been corrected in claims 3 and 13 by replacing "wall conduit" with "component". In addition, claim 3 has been written in independent form as requested. The external nature of the vacuum system has been highlighted in claims 4 and 6. The vacuum system does not form part of the invention. This resolves any indefiniteness in the claims that may affect scope.

Claims 3-12 are now in a form that the Examiner has indicated would be allowable. The Applicants note that the Examiner indicated claims 3-13 would be allowable if rewritten; however, based on the other comments in the Office Action the Applicants believe the Examiner meant claims 3-12.

It is believed that the other claims, both amended and new, are also distinguished from the cited references and in an allowable form. This includes previously rejected dependent claims where one or more of the underlying independent or dependent claims has been amended.

Conclusion

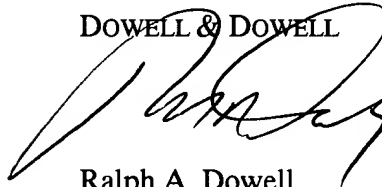
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Cunningham et al
Appl. No. 09/767,959

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DOWELL & DOWELL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph A. Dowell', is written over the printed name.

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Date: 10/02/02

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Version with markings to show changes made

Page 8, line 3:

Power circuit 66 comprises the components outside circuit 60 in Fig. 4. In power circuit 66, capacitor 104 and resistor 106 cause the -- line voltage 102 [voltage] -- in power circuit 66 to drop to a level which can be handled by light circuit 60. Alternatively, capacitor 104 and resistor 106 may be replaced by single resistor 108. Single resistor 108 must be of sufficient resistance to drop the voltage to the required operating levels of light circuit 60. It can be appreciated that a variety of known circuit arrangements are available which may be utilized to effectively drop the 120 volt AC signal to a signal which can be used by light circuit 60.

Page 10, line 18:

Frame assembly 2b for vacuum wall valve 206 comprises cover 40b and frame 42b. Cover 40b has -- apertures 50b and has -- hollow conduit 240 with opening 244. The distal end of hollow conduit 240 cooperates with hose 208. Lid 242 is pivotally attached to cover 40b. In a first position, lid 242 can be lowered to cover opening 244. In a second position, lid 242 is pivoted away from opening 244 allowing access to opening 244.

Page 11, line 14:

Light circuit 60b is supplied power by controller 216 through wires 218. Wires 74b connect with control connections 224. Light sensor circuit 246 provides a light-sensitive activation circuit for light circuit 60b. Light sensor circuit 246 is mounted on second PCB 76b. Second PCB 76b is mounted in frame 42b in space 78b such that light sensor 70b is oriented upwards and can receive ambient light in a room through conduit 80b. -- [...] -- When connecting element 212 of head unit 210 is inserted into opening 244, a circuit is completed between switch 214 and light sensor circuit 246. Further detail on light circuit 60b and light sensor

circuit 246 -- [are] is -- provided later.

Page 13, line 8:

Transformer 286 provides a 24-volt signal -- [appears] -- between terminals 286(3) and 286(4) when a 120-volt AC signal is present between terminals 270 and 272 -- [(Fig. 9a)] --.

Relay 276 is energized on the positive portion of an AC signal between terminals 286(3) and 286(4), via auxiliary circuit 278. Controller 216 interfaces to auxiliary circuit 278 through connector 290.

Page 13, line 16:

Auxiliary circuit 278 received an AC signal from transformer 286 through terminals 290(5) and 290(6). In operation, the user closes switch 214, thereby shorting terminals 290(1) and 290(2).

On a positive portion of the signal between terminals 290(5) and 290(6) diode 292 conducts, and capacitor 300 charges. The size of capacitor 300 is sufficiently -- [at] -- large such that it will not discharge completely over one AC cycle. The AC signal then flows through resistors in resistor network 302(1), thereby firing transistor 304(1). The base of transistor 304(2) is connected with the collector of transistor 304(1) through resistor network 302(1). Accordingly, the activation of transistor 304(1) causes the deactivation of transistor 304(2). The base of transistor 304(3) is connected with the collector of transistor 304(2) through resistor network 302(2). Accordingly, when transistor 304(2) is turned off, transistor 304(3) is turned on and the signal at terminal 290(3) goes to a low value. Meanwhile, on the positive portion of the signal between terminals 290(5) and 290(6), diode 306 conducts, causing terminal 290(4) to go to a high value. As such, there is a positive signal between terminals 290(3) and 290(4), which is sufficient to energize relay -- [286] 276 --. On the negative portion of the AC signal, the DC voltage stored in capacitor 300 flows through auxiliary circuit 278 allowing relay -- [278] 276 -- to be energized.

Page 15, line 14:

Referring to Fig. 12, the layout of components of frame assembly 2c is similar to the layout for components for frame assembly 2b (Figs. 3a and 3b). Light switch 52c is mounted to electrical box 54c via screws 48c inserted through -- apertures 50c and -- hollow spacers 56c on frame 42c. Hollow spacers 56c allow -- [connections 58c of] -- light switch 52c to be flush with the front surface of cover 40c.

Page 16, line 4:

It can be appreciated that power circuit 66c may include a light sensor circuit as described earlier to selectively activate light circuit 60c depending on the amount of ambient light detected. -- Conduit 80c is provided for access to ambient light in a similar manner to such conduits described earlier. --

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 13 and 14 are being amended as follows:

1. (once amended) A frame assembly for covering a wall conduit having a connection to electrical power and a component associated with the wall conduit requiring access through the frame assembly, the frame assembly comprising:

a light powered by an electrical circuit connected to the connection; and

-- a rectangular frame through which the electrical component is accessible, the frame having a side with a depth sufficient to house the light, [a frame for housing the light, the frame having an opening allowing access to the component through the frame, a side] -- and an aperture in the side allowing the light to illuminate a space outside the frame assembly through the aperture.

3. (once amended) -- A frame assembly for covering a wall conduit having a connection to electrical power and a component associated with the wall conduit requiring access through the frame assembly, the frame assembly comprising:

a light powered by an electrical circuit connected to the connection; and

a frame for housing the light, the frame having an opening allowing access to the component through the frame, a side and an apertures in the side allowing the light to

illuminate a space outside the frame assembly through the aperture; [The frame assembly of claim 1] --

wherein, the -- component [wall conduit] -- is a vacuum wall valve.

4. (once amended) The frame assembly of claim 3, wherein the electrical circuit provides power to the light during a portion of an AC signal -- (from the electrical power of the wall conduit) -- having a first polarity and -- provides power for [allows] -- activation of -- an external [a] -- vacuum system on a second portion of the AC signal having a second polarity.

6. (once amended) The frame assembly of claim 3 wherein the electrical circuit further controls activation of -- an external [a] -- vacuum system and provides power to the light.

13. (once amended) The frame assembly of claim 2 wherein the -- component [wall conduit] -- is a wall outlet.

14. (once amended) A frame assembly and light for covering a wall conduit in a wall, the wall conduit having components requiring access outside the frame assembly, the frame assembly comprising:

a light;

an electrical circuit providing electrical energy to the light from a power source;

-- a rectangular frame through which the electrical component is accessible, the frame housing the electrical circuit, the frame having a side with a depth sufficient to house the light, and the frame having [a frame for mounting around the wall conduit and for housing the electrical circuit and the light inside the frame assembly, the frame comprising a side and] -- an aperture in the side allowing the light to illuminate a space outside the frame assembly through the aperture; and

a cover plate for covering the frame and for providing access to the components of the wall conduit.

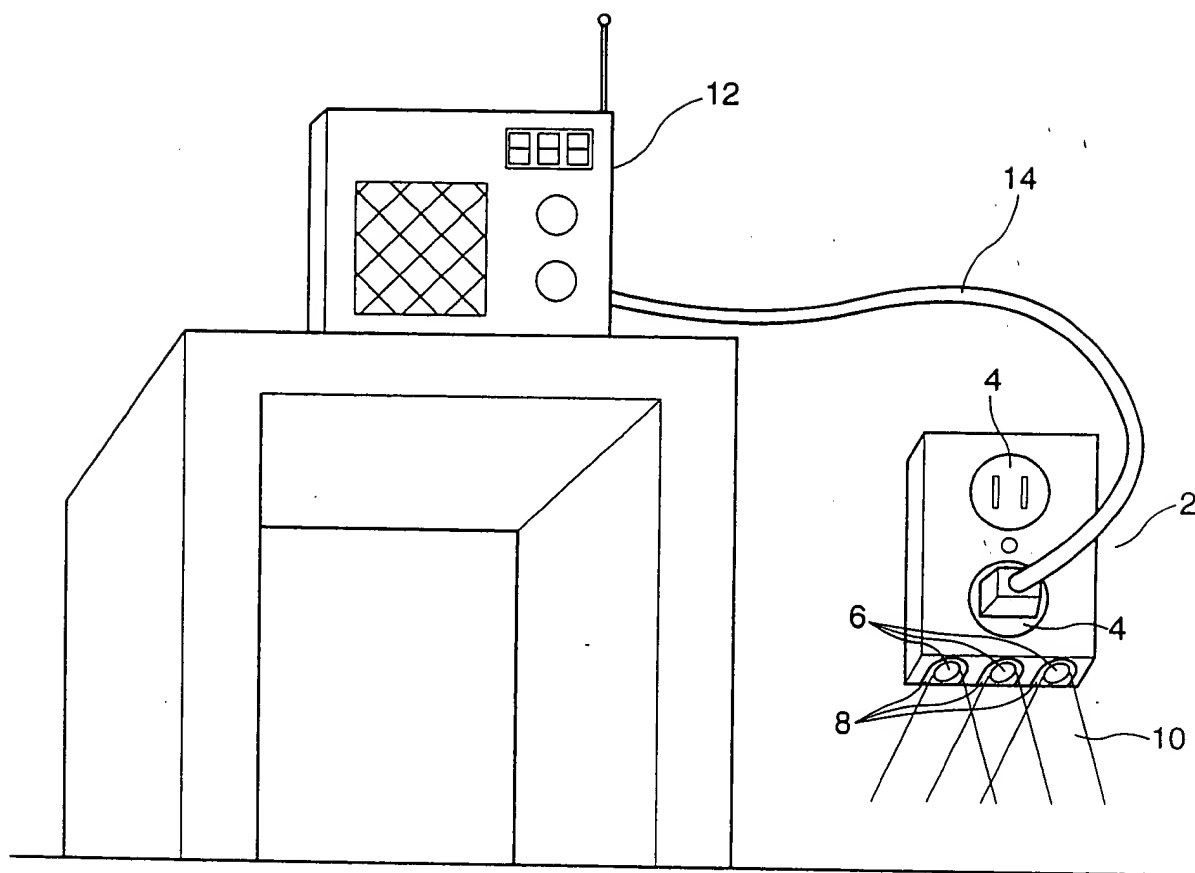
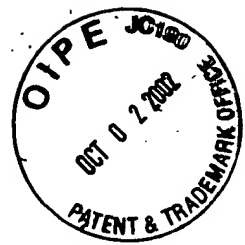


Figure 1
FIG.



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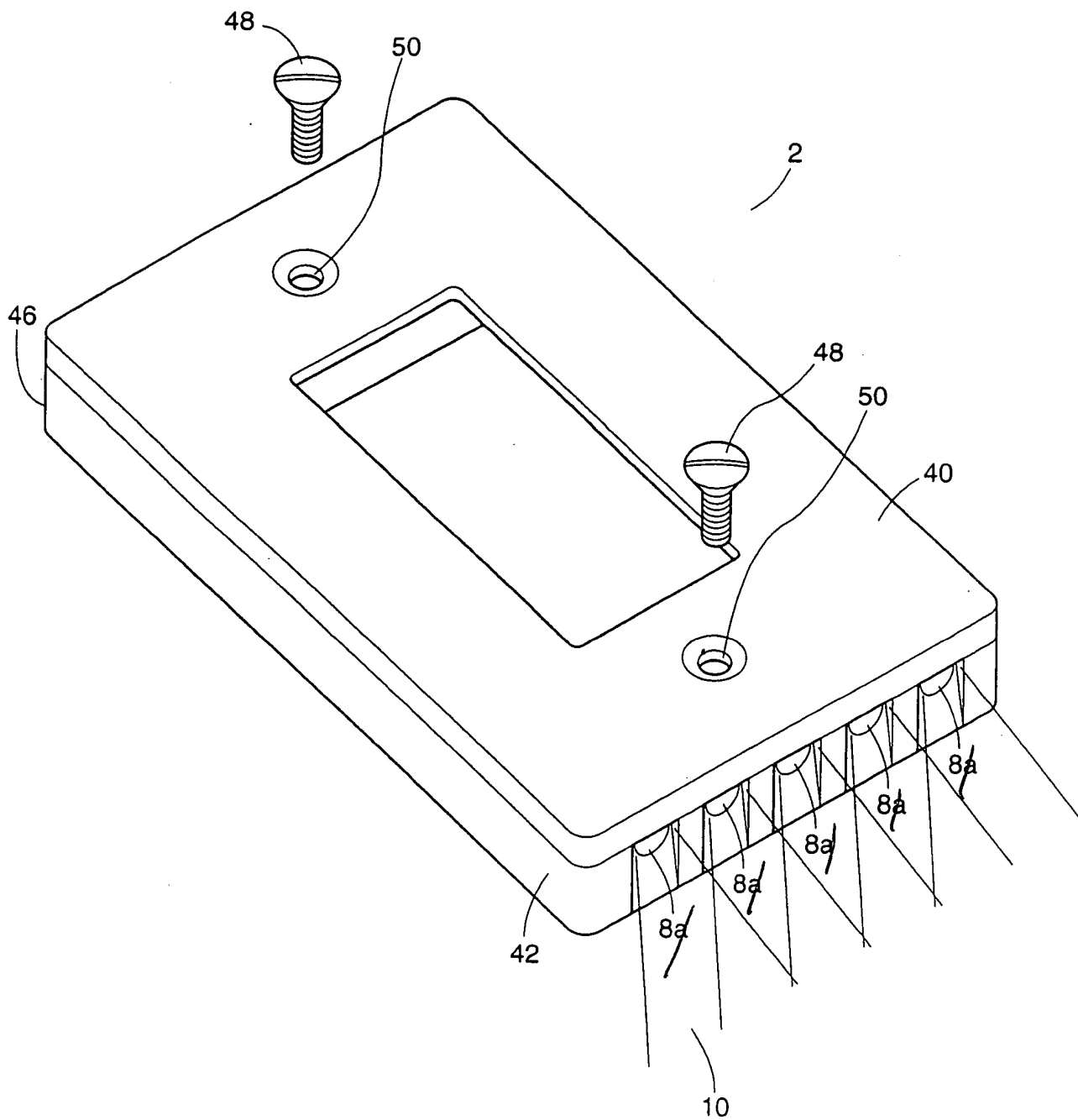
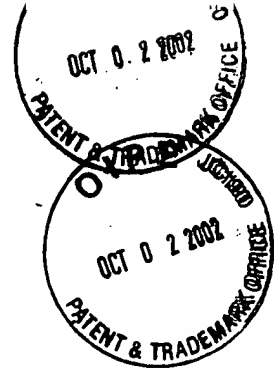


Figure 2
FIG.



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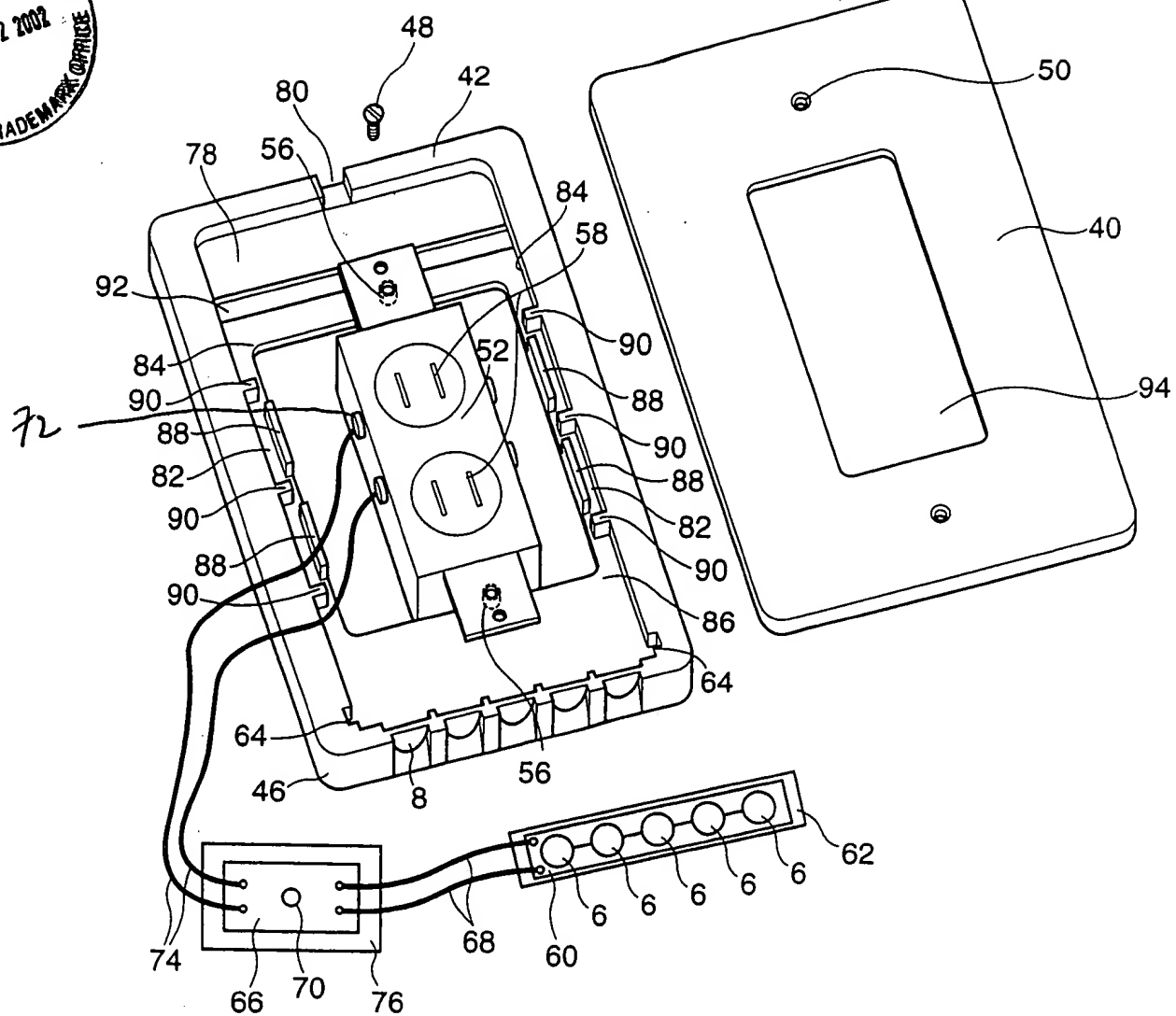


Figure 3a
FIG.

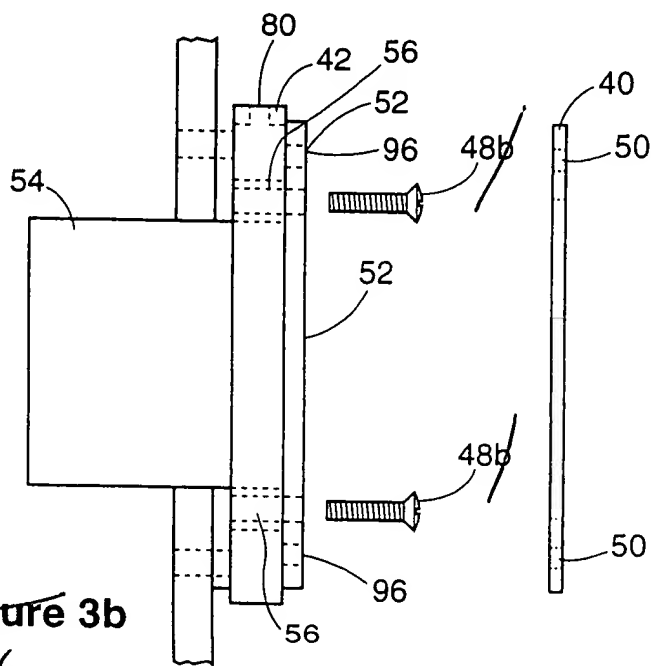


Figure 3b
FIG.

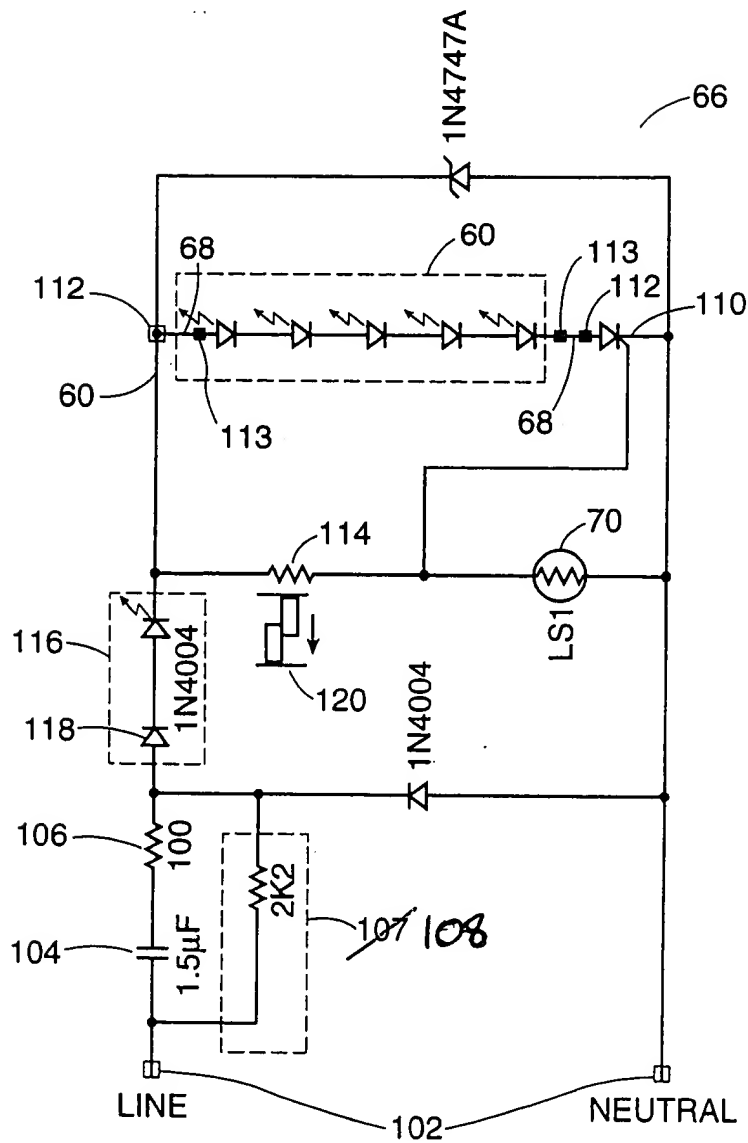


Figure 4
FIG.



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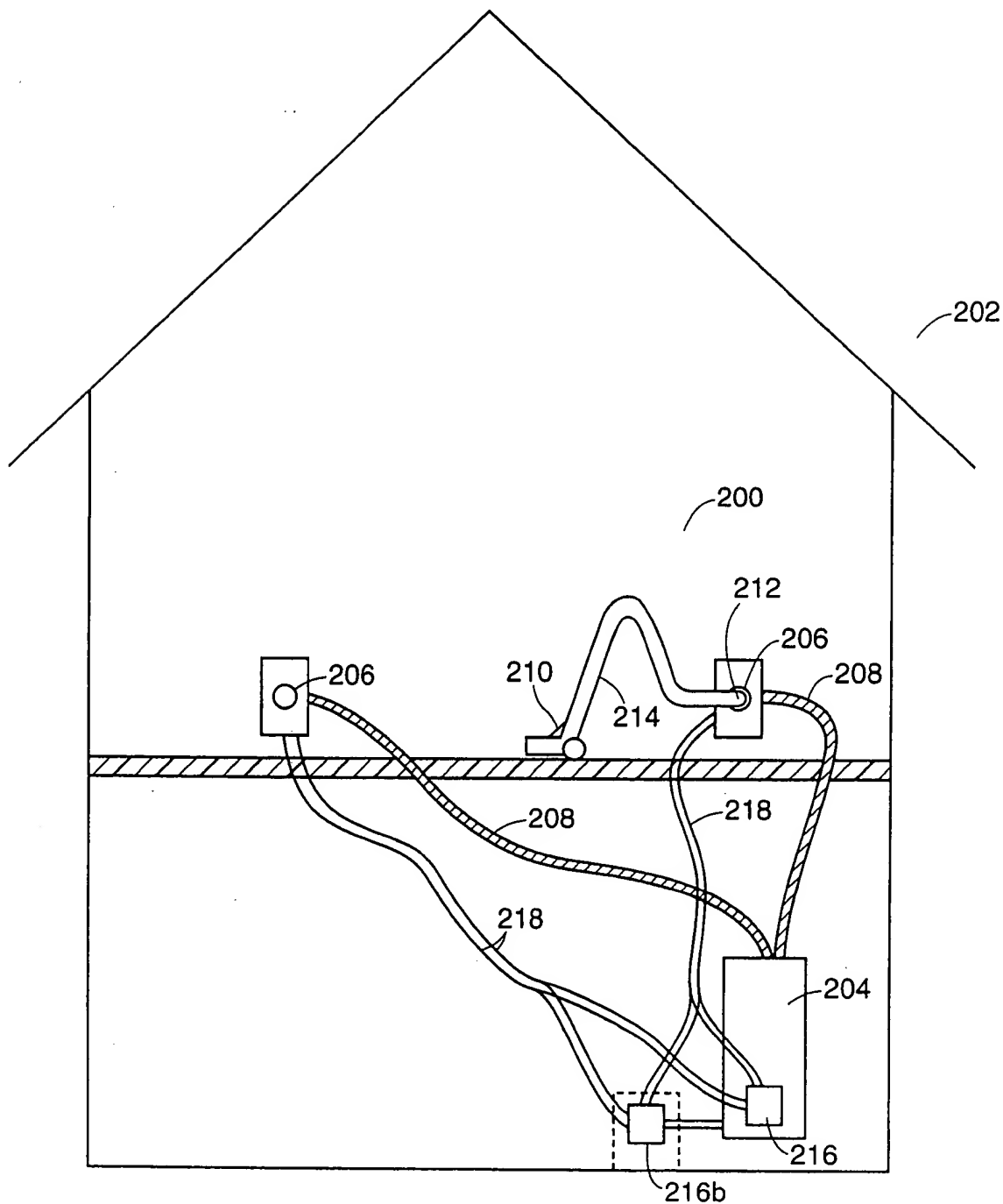


FIG.
Figure 5

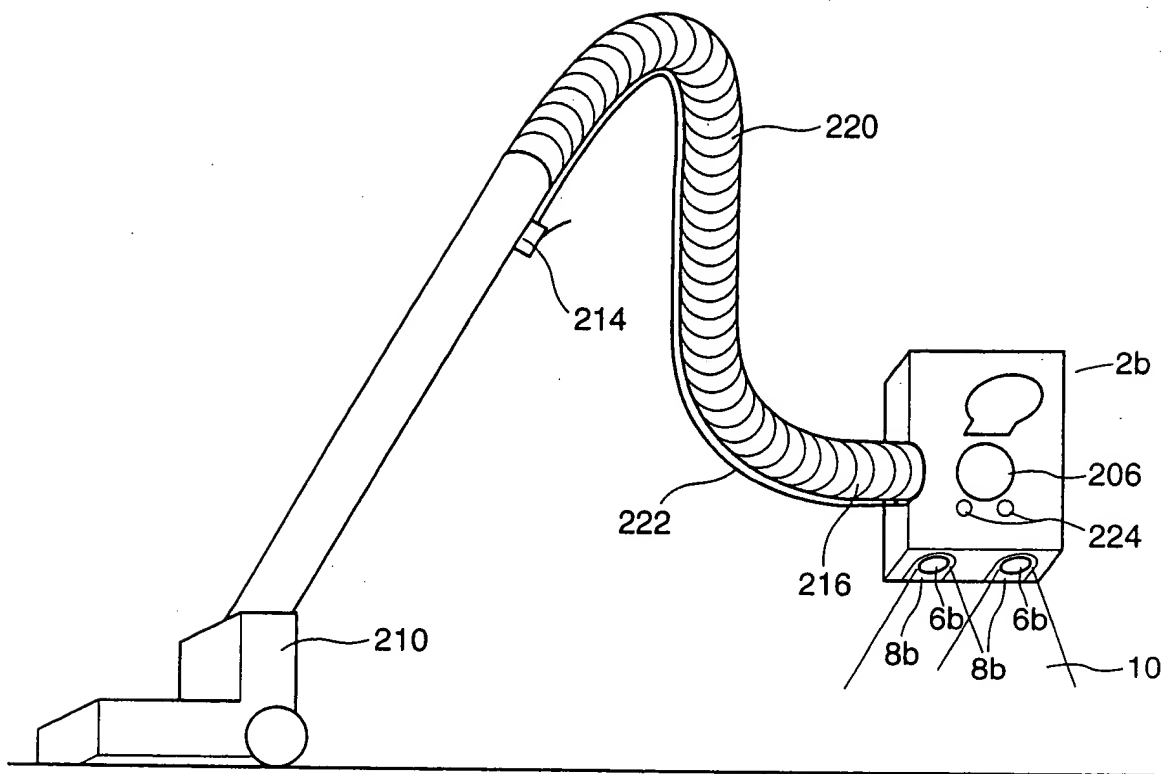
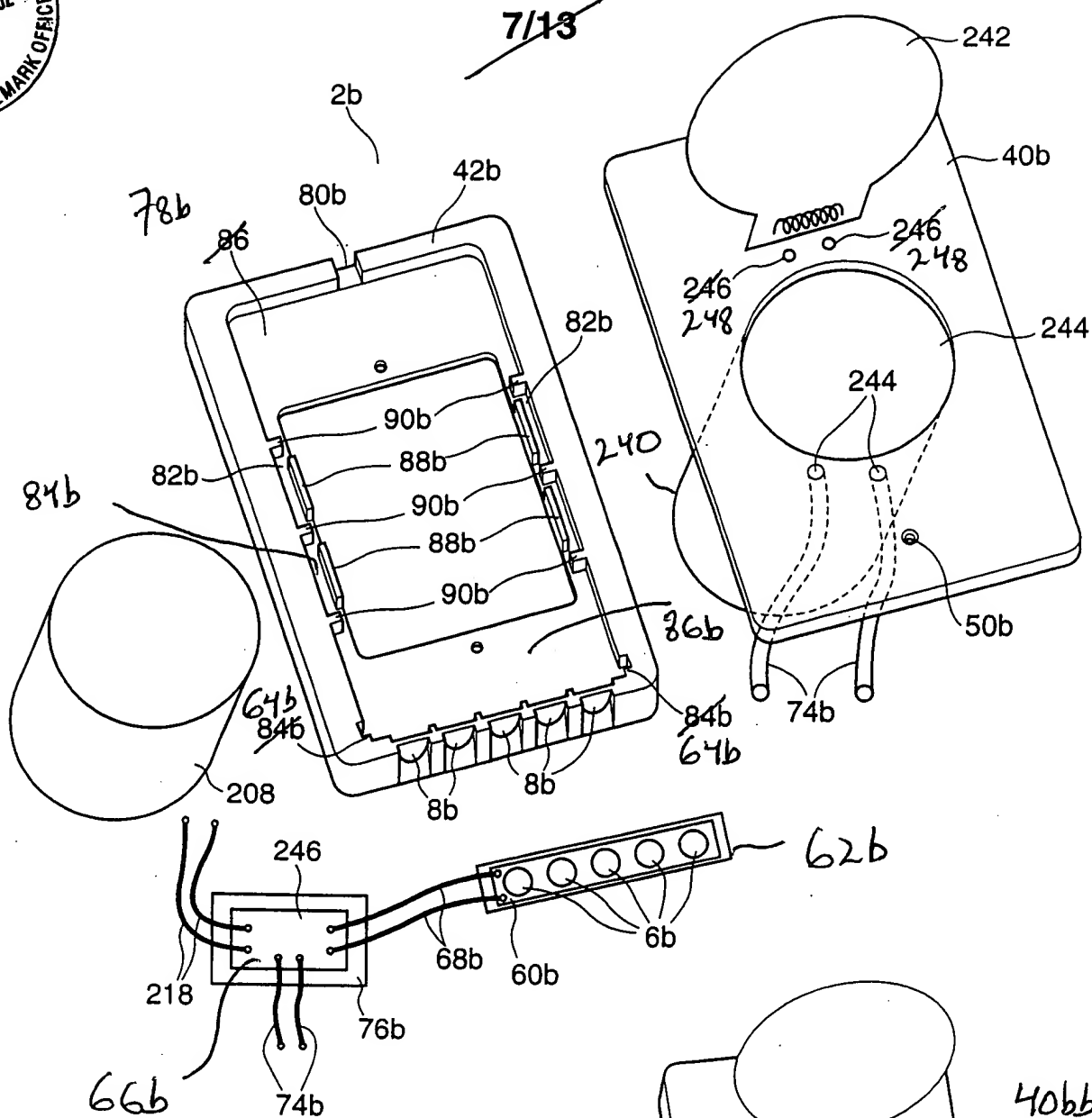


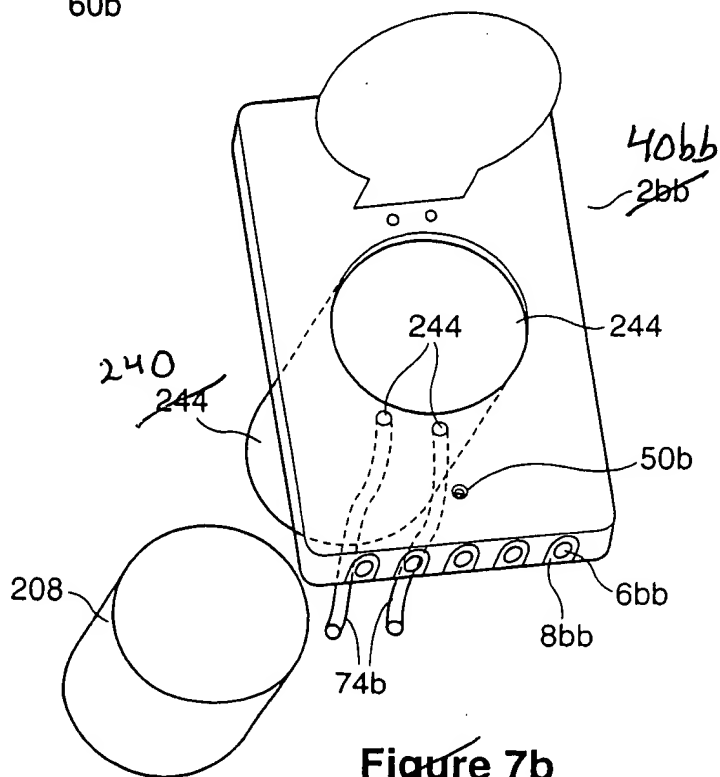
FIG.
Figure 6



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~~Figure 7a~~
FIG.



~~Figure 7b~~
FIG.



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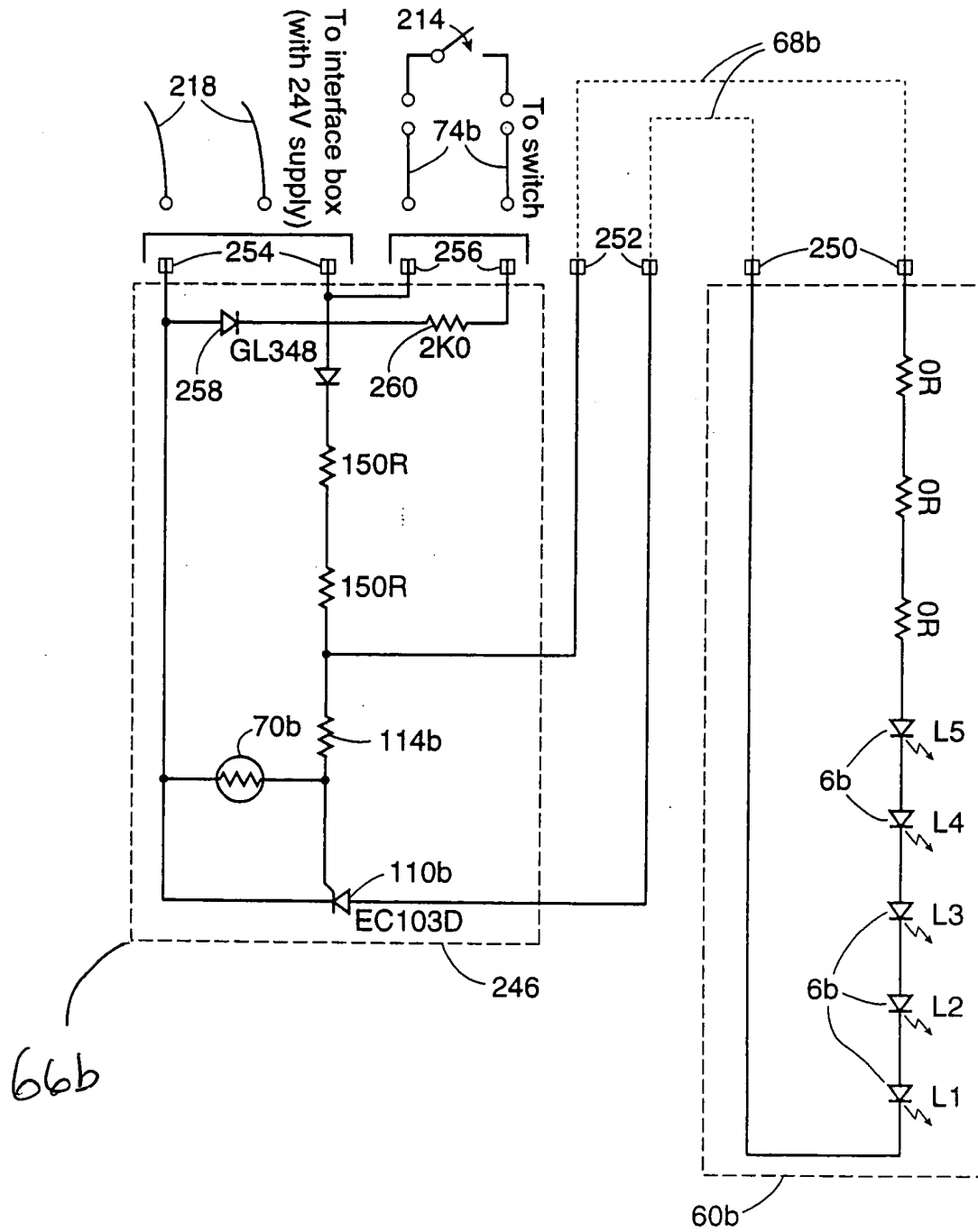


FIG.
Figure 8

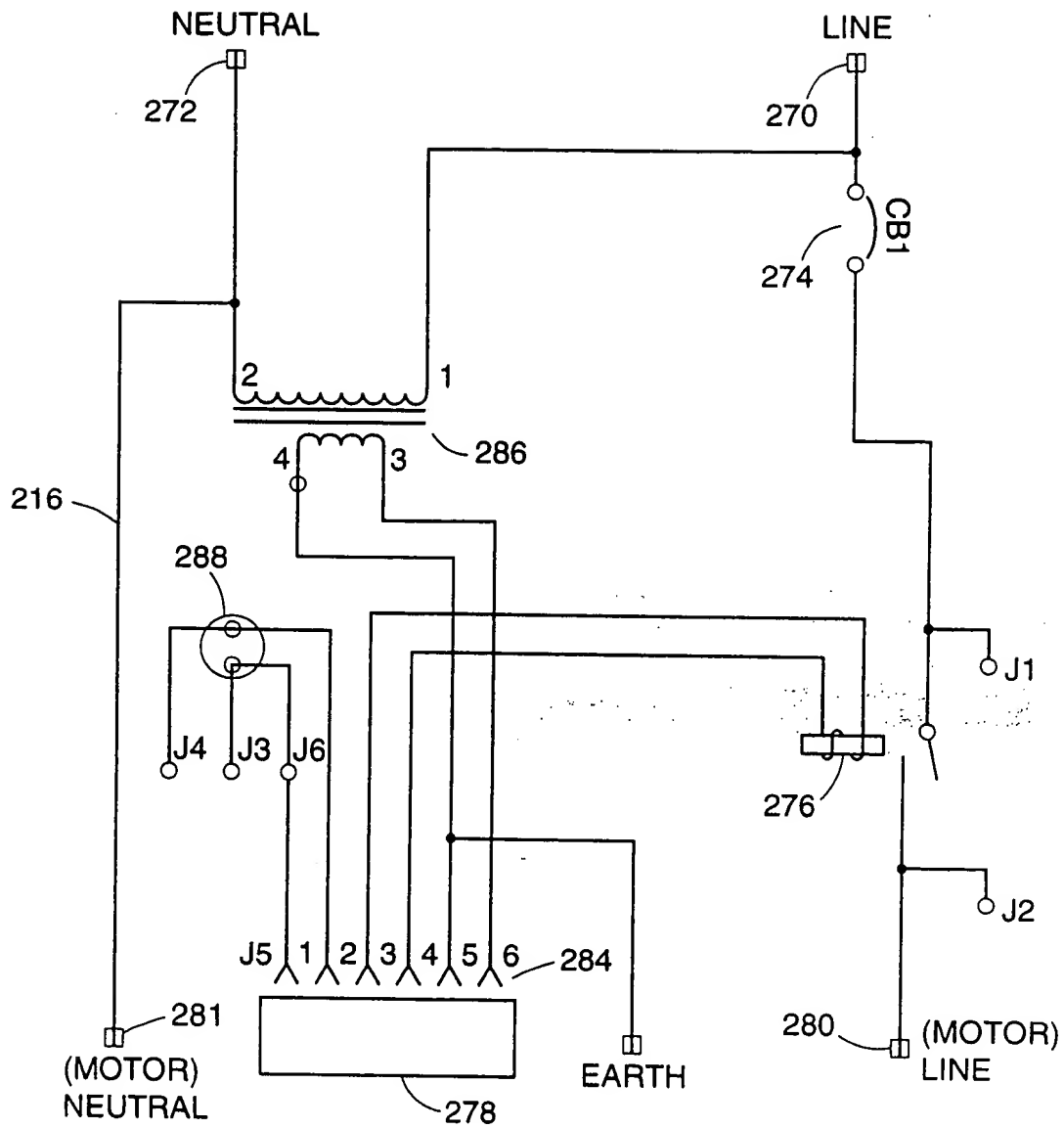


FIG.
 Figure 9a



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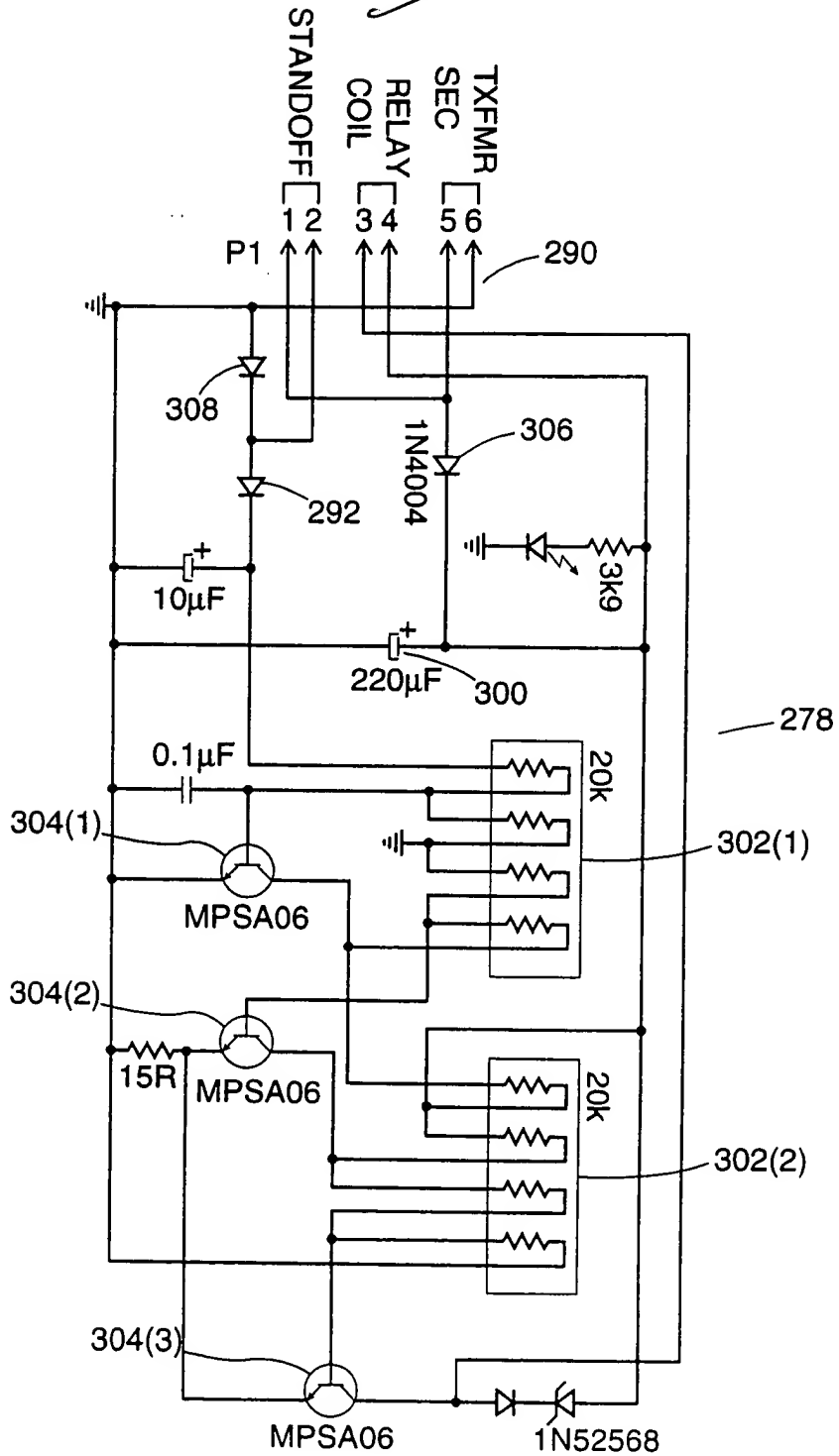


FIG. 9b
Figure 9b



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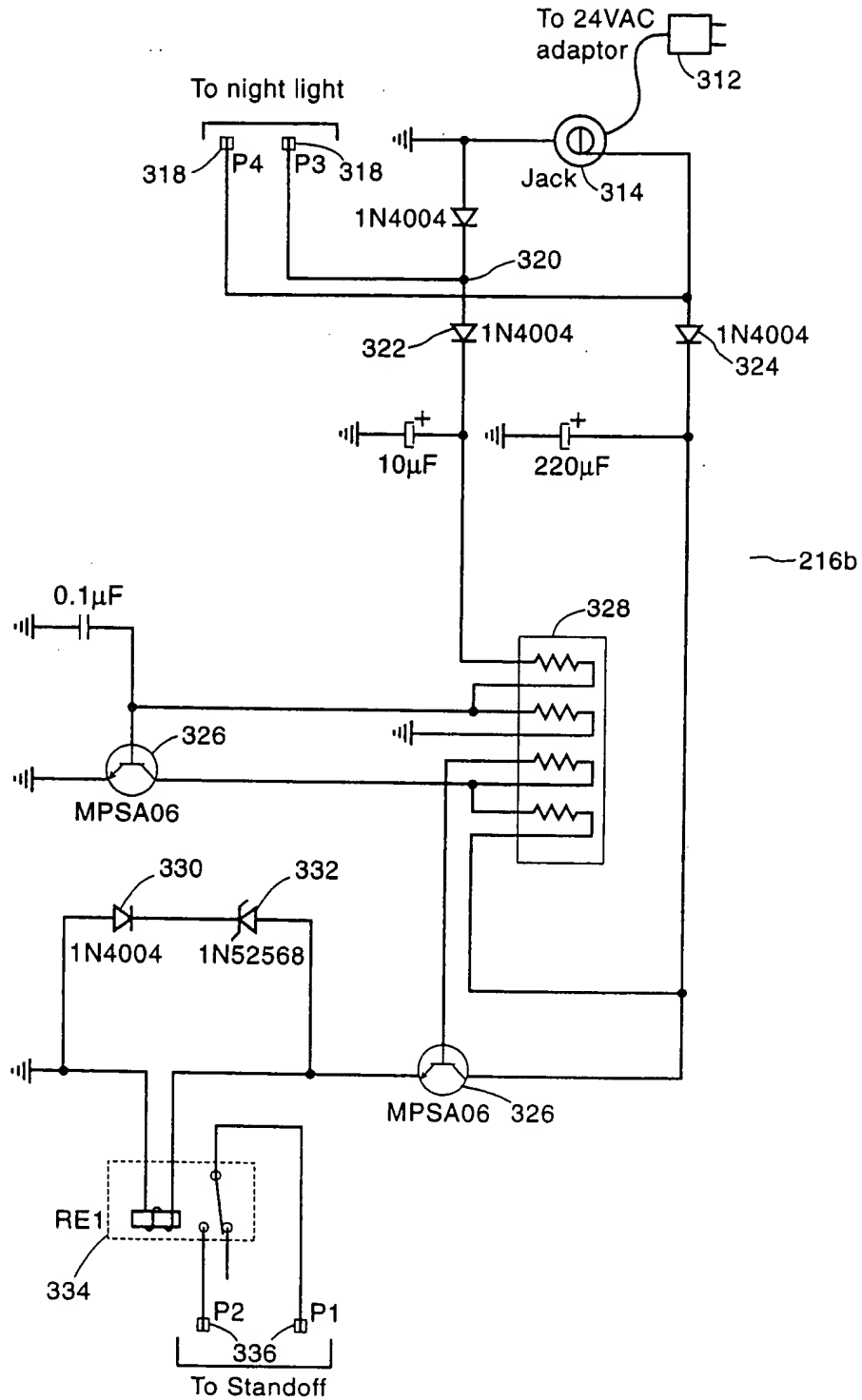
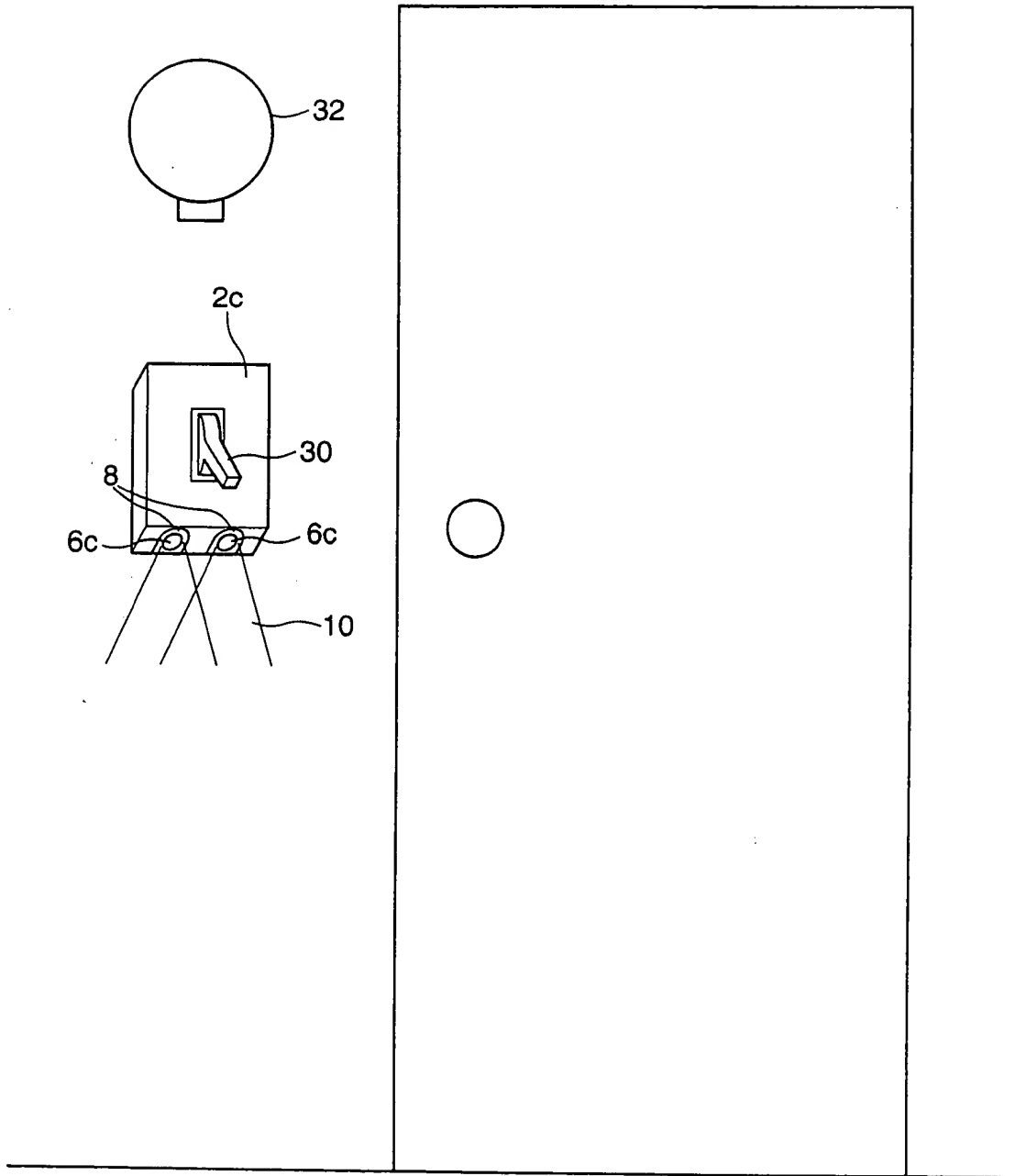


FIG.
Figure 10



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F16.
Figure 11

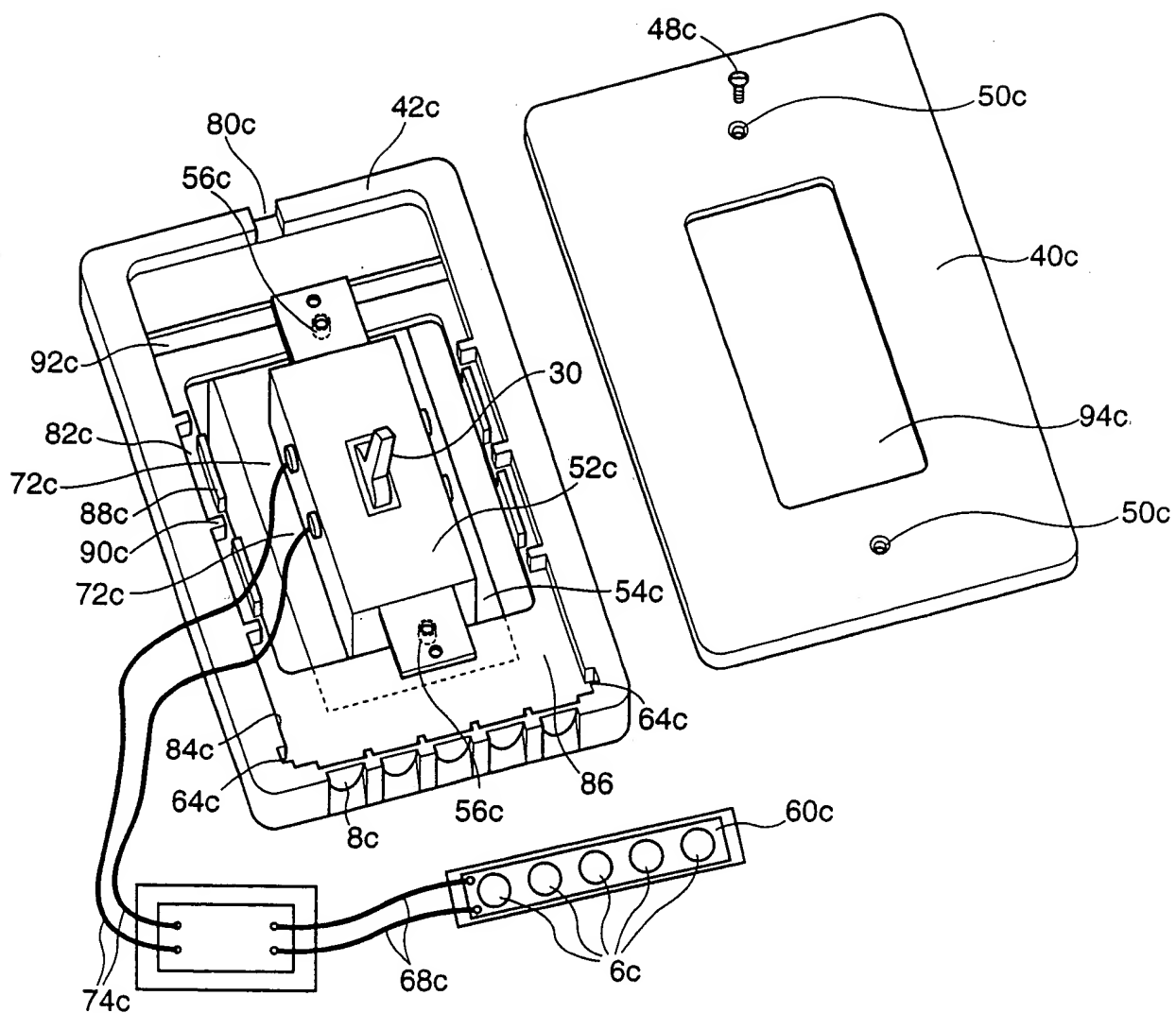


Figure 12
 FIG.

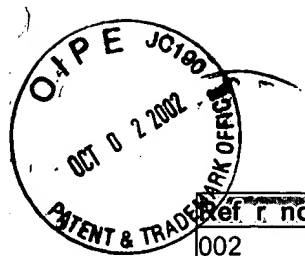


Figure numbers

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